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Ampthill Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR 1942

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

Amphill Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of laying before you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary conditions prevailing in your District for the year ending December 31st, 1942.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 1961, dated 16th February, 1940, and also the Ministry of Health's circular 2773, dated March 10th, 1943.

Section A. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	-	-	-	-	-	62,553
Population—Census for 1942 (estimated mid-year)	-	-	-	-	-	21,120
Census for 1931	-	-	-	-	-	17,483
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1942	-	-	-	-	-	6,192
Rateable Value	-	-	-	-	-	£98,156
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	-	-	£401/13/10

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The occupations of the inhabitants consist of farming, market gardening, and factory work. The villages of Woburn, Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, and Flitwick are residential districts.

A large number of persons work in the factories at Luton, and the brickyards at Stewartby and Marston Valley find employment for many of the inhabitants of adjacent villages which lie on the northern boundary of your district.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	330	173	157	{ Birth rate 16.1 per 1000 of resident population.
	{ Illegitimate	11	6	5	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	10	7	3	{ Birth rate 31.3 per 1000 Births (live and still).
	{ Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths	-	221	114	107	{ Death rate 10.4 per 1000 of resident population.

Birth rate for England and Wales is 15.8

Death rate for England and Wales is 11.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-	-	0
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	-	-	-	-	0

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE FOR ENGLAND & WALES.

Puerperal Sepsis	—	·42	per 1000 live and still births.
Others	—	1.59	" " "
Total	...	2.01	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

- 15 deaths among all Infants under one year of age, giving a death rate of 44 per 1000 live births.
 15 deaths among the Legitimate Infants under one year of age, giving a death rate of 45.4 per 1000 live births.
 0 deaths among the Illegitimate Infants under one year of age, giving a death rate of 0.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	-	-	-	-	-	37
" " Measles (all ages)	-	-	-	-	-	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-	-	-	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	0
" " Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	0
" " Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	0

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever *	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
Influenza	2	0
Measles	0	0
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	0	0
Acute infectious encephalitis	0	1
Cancer of b : cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	2	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2
Cancer of Breast	0	4
Cancer of all other sites	13	12
Diabetes	1	1
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	16	17
Heart Disease	25	29
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	2
Bronchitis	8	7
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	1
Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum	2	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis	2	0
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2
Nephritis	2	4
Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0
Premature Birth	5	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth injuries and infantile Diseases	1	1
Suicide	3	0
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1
Other Violent Causes...	2	2
All other Causes	12	12
All Causes	114	107

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i)—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY :—

1. *Medical Superintendent* of the Isolation Hospital at Steppingley—DR. VAN LANGENBERG, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. London (Part-time Officer).
2. *Medical Officer of Health*—DR. W. K. PARBURY, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.M.R.E. Cambs., D.P.H. Cambs. (part time to your Authority, but devotes whole time to duties of Medical Officer of Health).
3. *Sanitary Inspector*—MR. T. A. HAWTIN, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I. (whole time).
4. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*—MR. R. W. JOHNSON.
5. *Surveyor*—MR. C. A. LEWIS, A.M. Inst. M. & Cy. E., M.R. SAN. I.
6. *Matron* of the Isolation Hospital at Steppingley—MISS E. DAY, S.R.N.

(ii.) (a)—LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are examined by Dr. Rutherford Tree, of the Bedford County Hospital.

This year he has examined :—Diphtheria Swabs, 39.

(b)—AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

A motor Ambulance is kept at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.

A Public Ambulance is kept at the Bedford Fire Station and is available for your District. The Station can be communicated with by telephone. The 'phone number is 2222. Another Ambulance, under the control of the British Red Cross, is kept at Dunstable, 'phone number 158.

Judging from the experience of previous years, the present arrangements appear to be quite adequate for the needs of the district. In the event of an extra Ambulance being required in an emergency, there is an understanding with neighbouring Authorities that their Ambulances would be available.

(c)—PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

GENERAL.—The Bedfordshire Nursing Association supplies 12 Nurses to 18 Parishes in your District. These Nurses attend Midwifery, Maternity cases and Medical and Surgical cases. They are not allowed to attend any infectious disease. The local Association for each area employing a Nurse, supervises her work and provides her salary, which is raised by voluntary subscriptions and small fees paid by non-members of the local Association.

The following villages are supplied with Nurses :—

Aspley Guise	-	Nurse Davies	Shillington	-	-	Nurse McEnroe
Husborne Crawley		„ „	Marston Moretaine		„	Alcock
Aspley Heath	-	„ Faulkner	Millbrook	-	-	„ Jarman
Cranfield, Salford		„ Cordery,			„	Cheeseman
and Hulcote	-	S.R.N.	Maulden	-	-	„ Wagstaff
Silsoe	-	„ Little	Tingrith	-	-	„ Maxwell
Flitton	-	„ „	Woburn, Eversholt,			
Flitwick	-	„ Kendal, S.R.N.	Ridgmont and			
Steppingley	-	„ „	Milton Bryan		„	Baynham
Gravenhurst	-	„ McEnroe				

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—There is an Isolation Hospital at Steppingley which takes in cases of Infectious disease. Your Authority does not provide nursing in the home for these cases.

MIDWIVES.

There are 12 Midwives who have notified their intention to practise in your district, including those employed by the Nursing Association. They are supervised by a Committee appointed by the County Council.

(d)—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

The Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Ampthill Public Assistance Institution every Friday, at 2.30 p.m., at the Congregational School Room every other Thursday at 10 a.m. ; at the Memorial Hall, Cranfield, on every other Tuesday at 10 a.m. ; at the Methodist School Room, Marston, every other Thursday at 10 a.m. ; at The Town Hall, Woburn, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the Bedford County Hospital, Ampthill Road entrance. The times the Medical Officer attends, are Wednesday 5—7 p.m., and Fridays 3—5 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every Wednesday at 3.30 p.m., at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Dent Street, Ivy Road, Bedford.

(e)—HOSPITALS.

Hospital	Situation	Purpose	No. of Beds	Medical Staff	Manage- ment
Isolation Hospital	- Steppingley	Infectious Diseases	24	1	L.A.
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	- Mogerhanger	Tuberculosis	84	1	C.C.
Beds. County Hospital	- Bedford	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children	134		Voluntary
S. Peter's Hospital	- Bedford	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children	104	1	C.C.
Public Assistance Institution	Ampthill	Chronic Sick and Maternity	54	1	C.C.
Children's Home	- Kempston	Children	45	1	C.C.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act 1890. Part III. Sec. 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26 (2) 28, 32, 33, 48 & 49.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.

Part II, Sec. 15, 16, 17 (Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick and Maulden).

Sec. 20, 29, 33 (Whole District).

Part III, Sec. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46

Part IV, Sec. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 } Whole District,

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

New Streets and Buildings. Slaughter Houses. Drainage of Existing Buildings.

Water Regulations and Charges.

Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.—WATER.

The majority of the District is now supplied with water from the public mains. Bacteriological examination is made every three months from three sources in the District.

I am giving a list of parishes supplied, their source of supply, and the last three Analyses. The following parishes have a piped supply :—

<i>Parishes</i>				<i>Source of Supply</i>
Aspley Guise	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Aspley Heath	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Clophill	-	-	-	Amphthill U.D.C.
Cranfield	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Eversholt	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Flitton	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Flitwick	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Gravenhurst	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Harlington	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Haynes	-	-	-	Amphthill U.D.C.
Hulcote and Salford	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Houghton Conquest	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Husborne Crawley	-	-	-	Duke of Bedford's own supply
Lidlington	-	-	-	Birchmoor and Springs at Lidlington
Marston Moretaine	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Maulden	-	-	-	Amphthill U.D.C.
Millbrook	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Milton Bryan	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Pulloxhill	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Ridgmont	-	-	-	Duke of Bedford's own supply
Shillington	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Silsoe	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Steppingley	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Tingrith	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Westoning	-	-	-	Birchmoor
Woburn	-	-	-	Birchmoor

Drs. BEALE and SUCKLING.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,
91, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water.

Labelled : Marston—Tap over sink, 53, Bedford Road, Marston.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water
growing upon Agar at 37°C : in 1 day - - - 1

Do. Do. : in 2 days - - - 2

Do. Do. at 20°C : in 3 days - - - 130

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt
Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive
Bacillus Coli Test) - - - - - Absent in 100 C.C.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli Absent in 100 C.C.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the
B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) - - Absent in 100 C.C.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright, containing only a few particles of mineral debris in suspension and is of a high degree of bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory, consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

15. 9. 42.

(Signed) E. V. SUCKLING.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water.

Labelled tap over sink, 177, Station Road, Lower Stondon.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water
growing upon Agar at 37°C : in 1 day - - - 2

Do. Do. : in 2 days - - - 2

Do. Do. at 20°C : in 3 days - - - 80

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile Salt
Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C (Presumptive
Bacillus Coli Test) - - - - - Absent in 100 C.C.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli Absent in 100 C.C.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the
B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) - - Absent in 100 C.C.

This sample has faint opalescence with deposit, consisting of mineral debris, but it is of a high standard of bacterial purity, and in this respect is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

14. 9. 42.

(Signed) E. V. SUCKLING.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water.

Labelled : tap over sink, 35, Northwood Road, Haynes.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water
growing upon Agar at 37°C : in 1 day - - - 0

Do. Do. : in 2 days - - - 1

Do. Do. at 20°C : in 3 days - - - 6

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile Salt
Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C (Presumptive
Bacillus Coli Test) - - - - - Absent in 100 C.C.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli Absent in 100 C.C.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the
B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) - - Absent in 100 C.C.

This is a very satisfactory sample.

It is clear and bright in appearance and of a high degree of bacterial purity.

The results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

26. 5. 42.

(Signed) E. V. SUCKLING.

RAINFALL.

The station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain guage is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52° 1' N. Longitude 0° 35' W.

WOBURN.

		Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours.		No. of days with .01 in. or more	No. of days with .04 in. or more	At GREAT BARFORD.	
		Inches	Date			Total in Inches.	*Wet Days.
January ...	Total 2.2	0.72	Jan. 23	13	10	2.67	12
February ...	0.79	0.36	Feb. 1	10	4	.39	8
March... ..	1.33	0.46	Mar 4	13	10	1.15	12
April	1.19	0.39	April 6	7	6	.5	8
May	2.83	0.47	May 10	14	13	2.44	14
June	0.28	0.19	June 12	3	2	.68	4
July	2.46	0.66	July 26	15	10	2.63	14
August	1.37	0.28	Aug. 22	16	12	1.87	17
September ..	0.88	0.18	Sept. 23	13	7	.98	14
October	2.27	0.46	Oct. 26	15	10	2.28	9
November ...	1.80	0.96	Nov. 5	12	7	1.5	7
December ...	2.27	0.43	Dec. 4	19	16	1.6	17
Total	19.49			150		18.69	136

*That is, days with .01 inches or more

RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Woburn.	Great Barford.	England & Wales.
1933	17.77	16.93	29.3
1934	19.58	18.57	33.69
1935	26.13	24.57	40.14
1936	27.74	27.08	38.5
1937	30.62	29.93	39.1
1938	20.84	19.70	35.6
1939	29.89	25.51	40.3
1940	27.60	21.35	35.6
1941	25.52	22.11	33.8
1942	19.49	18.69	35.9

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, and also to Mr. Arnold Whitchurch, of Great Barford, for supplying me with the above rainfalls.

Report of the Surveyor and Engineer.

WATER SUPPLY.

In January, 1942, a report was given to the Council on the existing conditions of the water supply within the rural district, it being pointed out that the Council were dependent for the majority of the water supply on the pumping station at Aspley Guise, and which was under the management of the Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands Water and Drainage Joint Committee.

The matter arose out of a case of a break-down at the pumping station at Aspley Guise, when it became necessary to shut off for two hours per day the supply to the Council's district, and it was found that very great difficulty was encountered in getting a sufficient supply of water through to the furthestmost point of the supply area before the water was shut down again on the following day.

It was pointed out that the average daily consumption had increased considerably, and that during the next decade it would probably be necessary to provide a supply of some 450,000/500,000 gallons per day.

Further, the eastern half of the supply area was the portion most affected, and in some areas very low pressures were recorded.

It was pointed out that the Council had no large mains available for transferring large quantities of water from one side of the district to the other, and recommendation was put forward that the Council should seek a supplementary source of supply which should be in the eastern half of the supply area, and the site being not too far distant from the lines of the existing mains.

The Council accepted the report and engaged Messrs. Binnie, Deacon and Gourley, Chartered Civil Engineers, Westminster, to act as Consultants. A survey of the water resources of the eastern half of the district was carried out, and it was decided to purchase for the purposes of such supplementary supply a site near the New Inn Farm, Silsoe.

In February, 1943, the Ministry of Health held a Public Inquiry into the Council's proposals for such a supply.

At the present time certain preliminary works have been commenced with the authority of the Ministry of Health.

C. A. LEWIS,
Engineer and Surveyor.

AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1942.

Section C. (*continued*).

3 (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Fortnightly collections of house refuse have been continued by direct labour in the parishes of Flitwick, Westoning, Harlington, Woburn, Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath, and quarterly collections of indestructible refuse from the remaining parishes. One motor vehicle is used, and all salvage is separated and sold.

The night soil and cesspools in Flitwick, Westoning and Harlington, have received attention by contract, but the Council have obtained a motor cesspool emptier and will shortly do the work by direct labour.

3 (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. TABULAR STATEMENT.

Premises with Defective and Insanitary Closets	...	...	...	12
" " " Cesspools	...	...	...	53
" " " Drains	...	...	...	56
" " " Ashbins	...	...	...	2
" " Roofs, and Spouting	...	...	...	26
" " Windows and Insufficient Light and Ventilation	...	...	...	3
" " Walls, Floors, etc.	...	...	...	9
" " Water Supply	...	...	...	4
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	11
Damp Premises	...	...	...	14
Overcrowded Dwellings	...	...	...	1
Other Dilapidations	...	...	...	19
Unsound Meat and Food	...	...	...	46
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...	27
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	3
Rooms disinfected for Infectious Disease	...	...	...	36
" " " Cancer	...	...	...	6
" " " Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfested for Bed Bugs and Lice	...	...	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	8
" Informal " "	...	...	...	152
" Defective Premises	...	...	...	237

3 (v)

CAMPING SITES.

(1)	Number of Sites used for Camping during 1942	...	...	7
(2)	" " " Licenced under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	6
(3)	Estimated number of Campers resident in the Area at one time during the Summer Season, 1942	...	...	15

3 (viii)

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) Number found to be infested :—

(a)	Council Houses	...	...	...	0
(b) i.	Other Houses	...	...	...	4
ii.	Disinfested	...	..	...	4

2. The houses were either sprayed with "Zaldecide." or fumigated with Lawes' "Disinfestator" Blocks.
3. Inspection before removal.
4. Disinfestation carried out by Council.
5. Inspection, Supervision and Advice.

Section D.

HOUSING.

The tenancies of five Council houses have changed during the year.

Two complaints were received regarding excessive rents. Both were investigated, reduction obtained in one case, and in the other the allegation was considered unfounded.

Five claims in respect of damage by evacuees have been investigated and settled.

A permitted number in respect of one house has been supplied to applicant.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are now 182 persons on the Register, comprising 100 wholesalers and 82 retailers, a nett increase of 8. Defects were noted and rectified at 25 cowsheds and 6 dairies.

A Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk has been renewed.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. 309 lbs. beef, 28 lbs. bacon, 8 lbs. mutton, 8 lbs. pork, 194 eggs, 5½ lbs. sultanas, 1½ cwt. oatmeal, 48 lbs. oranges, 400 apples, 120 lbs. tea, 3 lbs. jam, 33 tins meat, 45 tins milk, and 40 tins other foods have been condemned.

Two Slaughter-house Licences and 7 Licences to Slaughter and Stun have been renewed.

Defects at 3 Bakehouses were found and rectified.

THOS. A. HAWTIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

R. W. JOHNSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

THE LIMES,

12, DUNSTABLE STREET,

AMPTHILL.

THE SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	Church of England or Council	No. of Pupils on Roll	Average Attendance	Type of Closet	Boys	Girls	Infants	Disposal of Excreta	Drinking Water
Aspley Guise	Council	69	57	WC	2	3	1	Sewer -	Main
Aspley Heath	Council	262	228	"	3	5	3	Sewer -	Main
Clophill	C. of E.	130	124	EC	4	5	2	Removed weekly	Main
Cranfield	C. of E.	276	238	"	5	6	0	Buried twice weekly	Main
Eversholt	Council	42	40	"	2	2	1	3 times weekly	Main
Flitwick (Mixed) ...	Council	118	109	"	3	6	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Flitwick (Junior) ...	Council	79	73	"			4	Removed twice weekly	Main
Gravenhurst (Junior)	Council	40	35	"	1	2	1	Pails emptied twice weekly	Main
Greenfield	C. of E.	68	63	"	2	3	0	Removed twice weekly	Pump
Harlington	Council	65	60	"	3	3	2	Sanitary cart once weekly	Main
Haynes	Council	81	70	"	2	2	1	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main
Houghton Conquest	Council	74	69	"	3	3	2	Drying Shed Removed weekly	Main
Husborne Crawley	Council	15	13	"	2	2	0	Buried 3 times weekly	Main
Lidlington	Council	89	73	"	2	4		Drying Shed Removed weekly	Main
Marston Moretaine	Council	112	105	"	2	2	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Marston Shelton ...	Council	62	60	"	2	3		Removed once weekly	Tap in yard
Maulden	Council	173	160	"	3	3	3	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main
Millbrook	Council	16	16	"	1	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Milton Bryan	C. of E.	22	20	"	2	1	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Pulloxhill	C. of E.	29	28	"	1	2		Removed daily	Main
Ridgmont	Council	116	99	"	2	3		Removed 3 times weekly	Main
Salford & Hulcote ..	C. of E.	22	15	"	2	2		Removed weekly	Pump at School House
Shillington	Council	126	115	"	1	2	1	Drying Shed 2 times weekly	Main
Silsoe	C. of E.	55	49	"	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Steppingley	Council	22	21	"	2	2	1	Buried weekly	Main
Lower Stondon	Council	76	64	"	2	2	2	Drying Shed 3 times weekly	Main
Tingrith	C. of E.	24	23	"	1	2		Removed twice weekly	Main
Westoning	Council	76	71	"	3	3	2	Removed twice weekly	Main
Woburn	Council	55	50	WC	2	2	1	Sewer	Main

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

No School closed during the year.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The Steppingley Isolation Hospital receives cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and other diseases in certain emergencies from your district, and from the Urban District of Ampthill.

Number of patients in hospital on January 1st, 1942—

Scarlet Fever 10, Diphtheria 2.

Admissions :—

Scarlet Fever 21 Diphtheria 4 Erysipelas 3 Whooping Cough 1
Scarlet Fever? (later diagnosed Scabies) 1 Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ? 1
Erysipelas? (later diagnosed Dermatitis) 1

Discharges :—

Scarlet Fever 29 Diphtheria 6 Erysipelas 3 Whooping Cough 1
Scarlet Fever ? 1 Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 1 Erysipelas 1

Deaths—

Number of cases in hospital on Dec. 31st, 12

Scarlet Fever 2 Diphtheria 0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-three cases were notified. All were treated in the Isolation Hospital except two.—Thirteen were between the ages of 3—10 years. Twelve parishes were affected; the greatest number (10) were in the parish of Marston.

Compared with last year there is a great decrease in the incidence of this disease.

Diphtheria.—Five cases were notified, all were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The first case, aged 17, had been immunised against Diphtheria about eighteen months previous to falling ill. In three other cases there was no evidence of their being immunised. Their ages were 28, 25, and 4½. The fifth case was transferred from a neighbouring district as a case of tonsillitis to an Institution in this district and was diagnosed as a case of diphtheria. His age was 10 and there was no evidence of his being immunised. He was transferred to an isolation hospital in another district. No deaths.

Pneumonia.—Twenty-one cases were notified, occurring in fourteen different parishes. There were seven deaths.

Erysipelas.—Eight cases were reported, no deaths registered.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—One case was notified. She made a good recovery. No deaths.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—Two cases were notified. Both recovered. One was a child aged 2, the other was a man in the Royal Air Force.

Measles,—Thirty-four cases. All recovered.

Whooping Cough.—Fourteen cases. All recovered.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

A number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year under review, and during previous years

I give details below ; the children are divided into two groups,—

1. Children of School age.
2. Children under School age,

1. CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Number on School Rolls on Jan. 1st	—	—	3,404
" " " Dec. 31st	...	...	2,657
			<hr/> 747

The smaller attendance is explained by the fact that a number of evacuated children returned to their homes during the year.

Number of children immunised on Jan. 1st	...	2480
" " " during the year...	...	262
Total of immunised children	...	<hr/> 2742
Approximate number of immunised children who had left the school during the year, <i>i.e.</i> 70 o/o of 747	...	522
The number immunised on Dec. 31st	...	<hr/> 2220
Percentage of immunised on Jan. 1st	...	72.8
" " Dec. 31st	...	83.0
I consider these results are satisfactory.		

2. CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

Estimated number on Jan. 1st...	...	1575
Number immunised on Jan. 1st	...	36
" " between Jan. 1st and June 30th	...	54
" " " June 30th and Dec. 31	...	244
" " on Dec. 31st	...	<hr/> 334
Percentage of immunised on Jan. 1st.	...	2.2
" " " June 30th	...	5.7
" " " Dec, 31st	...	21.2

I was not at all satisfied with the slow progress made with the immunisation of these children, especially as the age of 1 to 5 years is the most susceptible period to this disease in a child's life.

Up to June 30th of this year under review the arrangement I made with Dr. Welch, the County Medical Officer of Health, was that all these children should be immunised at the various Infant Welfare Clinics ; subsequently I came to the conclusion that the Infant Welfare Clinics were situated, in many cases, so far away from the homes of the children that the parents found it difficult to attend. I, therefore, with the approval of Dr. Welch, supplemented the above arrangements

by circularising, during the latter half of the year, all parents of children in this group ; I pointed out that immunisation would be carried out free of charge to the parents, and strongly urged them to take their children to their own doctor, giving them details as to a suitable place and times where and when their doctor would be available. In the meantime I wrote to all the doctors who might be concerned and obtained their willingness to immunise children at a fee of 2/6 per injection ; they co-operated with me by giving times and places when and where it would be convenient for the children from the outlying districts to attend. By this means we were successful in raising the percentage of immunised children from 5.7 per cent. to 21.2 per cent. in the latter half of the year.

I still do not consider this result satisfactory ; it is difficult to convince parents and make them realise the benefits to be derived from immunisation.

During the year there has been only one case of Diphtheria among children under fifteen. This case was a boy four-and-a-half years old, and the parents had not taken the opportunity of getting him immunised against Diphtheria. The boy of 10, referred to on page 11, did not belong to this district.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

An epidemic of *Chicken Pox* occurred in the parishes of Ridgmont, Lidlington, and Pulloxhill.

There were also cases of *Measles* in Milton Bryan and Shillington ; and *Mumps* in Milton Bryan, Gravenhurst, and Silsoe.

CANCER.

37 deaths were registered, 19 males and 18 females. This is an improvement on the previous year's figures. They are tabulated as follows :

Males—

- 2 cases of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus.
- 4 " " Stomach and Duodenum.
- 13 " " All other sites.

Females—

- 2 cases of Stomach and Duodenum.
- 4 " " Breast.
- 12 " " All other sites.

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

A few cases occurred among the evacuated children ; they were treated at St. Peter's Hospital.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio- Encephalitis	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia
Total Cases Notified -	23	5	21	8	34	14	1	2	1	1
Cases admitted to Hospital	21	5	0	4	4	0	1	2	0	0
Total Deaths - -	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases under 1 year -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases from 1 to 2 years	1	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 2 3 "	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 3 4 "	6	...	3	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 4 5 "	2	1	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 5 10 "	5	...	1	...	13	6	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 10 15 "	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 15 20 "	3	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 20 35 "	3	2	4	4	8	...	...	1	1	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 35 45 "	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases " 45 65 "	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases 65 and upwards -	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

VILLAGES.	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Erysipelas	Malaria	Whooping Cough	Polio- Encephalitis	Measles
Eversholt	1	...	...	2	..	...	..	..	..	..
Salford	..	...	...	1	..	...	..	..	..	..
Woburn	1	...	...	1	..	...	..	2	..	2
Shillington	1	...	1	1	..	...	..	..	..	..
Silsoe	1	...	1	1	..	...	..	..	..	2
Cranfield	2	...	2	1	1	2	1	..	..	9
Tingrith	..	...	...	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Clophill	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ridgmont	2	...	...	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Haynes	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Millbrook	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Houghton	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Conquest	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marston	10	...	...	1	..	..	..	3	..	..
Milton Bryan	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Aspley Guise	1	...	...	..	1	..	..	6	..	..
Pulloxhill	..	1	...	3	..	1	..	1	..	..
Lower Stondon	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Flitwick	..	...	...	3	..	2	..	1	..	1
Gravenhurst	..	...	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harlington	..	...	...	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westoning	..	...	...	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Flitton	..	...	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Aspley Heath	..	...	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	10
Total	23	1	5	21	2	8	1	14	1	34

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES & MORTALITY.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 year to 5 years	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5 years to 10 "	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
10 " " 15 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 " " 20 "	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
20 " " 25 "	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...
25 " " 35 "	2+1*	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
35 " " 45 "	1	1+1*	...	...	...	1	...	...
45 " " 55 "	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 " " 65 "	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
65 " and over	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...
Total ...	5+1*	3+1*	1+1*	3	1	3	0	0

* Renotification.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES & MORTALITY.

Villages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulloxhill ... ..	...	...	...	2	..	...	...	..
Maulden	I	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Woburn ... ..	...	I*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clophill	I	I	...	...	...	I	...	...
Ridgmont	I*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lower Stondon	I	...	I*	...	...	...	...	...
Flitwick	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Aspley Heath ... ..	...	...	I	I	I	...	...	...
Total	5+I*	3+I*	I+I*	3	I	3	0	0

* Renotification.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 176.
This is undertaken by the County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH, (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925,
and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

No necessity for action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

All tuberculosis cases have been notified, therefore the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is Nil,

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking your Clerk, MR. H. ROBINSON, and your Sanitary Inspectors, MR. T. A. HAWTIN and MR. R. W. JOHNSON, for their valuable help in assisting me to carry out my duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. K. PARBURY,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ldn.
D.P.H. Camb., D.M.R.E. Camb.

June, 1943.

